

IRAQ: RESPONSIBLE WITHDRAWAL  
PLAN NEEDED NOW**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 28, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the recent referendum approving a new constitution for Iraq has raised hopes for political stability and an improved security situation. But even with this incremental progress, very few informed observers believe there is light at the end of the tunnel.

The Bush administration's decision to wage war in Iraq was constitutionally flawed, poorly planned, ineptly managed and the result has been a strategic national security blunder that promises to haunt our country for decades to come.

The war has devolved into a quagmire that threatens to leave America isolated in a military struggle that is dangerously perceived as a conflict with Islam. It has drained our treasury, stretched our Army to the breaking point, taken over 2,000 American lives, and resulted in more than 40,000 American casualties. It has toppled an evil and sadistic dictator, but at a cost of more than 100,000 Iraqi lives.

The legacy of this war, and its unbelievably poor civilian direction, also threatens to mark George W. Bush as a failed president—a thought I take no great comfort from because a failed presidency hurts America. By taking our democracy into a war of choice, and not a war of necessity, President Bush will have to answer to history. Those in Congress who gave him their trust and vested him with the authority to wage this war will also have to answer for their part in what looks to be a major strategic mistake.

Those of us in Congress who voted against this war must also answer to history. I felt so strongly that I authored my own separate resolution that would have required international support for coercive inspections in Iraq—a plan that would have uncovered false claims about WMD before American blood was spilled in the deserts of Iraq. I stand by my vote as a vote of conscience and believe the wisdom of my cautions about the unintended, but foreseeable consequences of this war have been tragically borne out.

An increasing number of Americans have come to view the war in Iraq as a mistake. I believe strongly that it was a mistake to go to war in the way we did.

However, I am not prepared to say that it has been a mistake for the Iraqi people, because they now have a glimmer of hope that they can create a stable democracy, even though they would have an even greater chance of success had the Bush Administration taken the time to secure international support for their Iraq policy before plunging into war.

I will never believe or say that American soldiers have died and sacrificed in vain—they may rightly claim that their efforts have given hope to the Iraqi people. Sadly, their sacrifice and the excellence of our armed forces have not been matched by the civilian political leadership of our nation.

As it stands now, the Iraqi people are largely dependent on American soldiers for security, and it is this fact that has caused a number of us who opposed the war to reflect on what our future course must be.

For some, the answer is a simple call for "immediate withdrawal" and hopes that a bloodbath and civil war will not follow in the wake of our departure. This is a perfectly understandable response to quagmire, and the terrible price the Bush Administration has exacted for not being completely honest with the American people about the costs or long-term consequences of waging a largely unilateral war to transform the politics of the Middle East.

Let me be absolutely clear. America must withdraw from Iraq. We need a plan that is designed to bring our troops home and make clear to the Islamic world that we harbor no ambitions for permanent bases, Iraqi oil revenues or any military occupation. But how we withdraw is as important as when we withdraw. This means giving the Iraqis time to form a permanent government and establish the means for international support.

We must exercise care in the way our country withdraws, not just to keep faith with promises made to the Iraqi people, but even more importantly because leaving a failed state in Iraq will deeply endanger our country.

Many of the essential elements in a responsible withdrawal plan are clear: holding down the costs to the American taxpayer; transferring security responsibilities to Iraqi forces; preventing Iraq from becoming a bigger breeding ground for terrorism; restoring America's reputation internationally; and honoring the sacrifice of our men and women in uniform. In the coming weeks, I will be laying out my specific proposals to chart a new course for a withdrawal strategy in Iraq.

## IN HONOR OF JAHJA LING

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 28, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Jahja Ling, director and resident conductor of Cleveland Orchestra's Blossom Festival and long-time member of the Cleveland Orchestra's conducting staff, as he bids farewell to an adoring Cleveland audience and begins another musical journey as music director of the San Diego Symphony.

Jahja Ling is an internationally known pianist and conductor, and has graced the stage of the celebrated Cleveland Orchestra at Severance Hall and at Blossom Music Center for a combined tenure of more than two decades. The artistic luminosity that frames the work of Jahja Ling inspired the personal best from every member of the Cleveland Orchestra and consistently resulted in triumphant performances for audiences of all ages—whether under the stars at Blossom, within the hallowed walls of Severance Hall, or in concert venues around the world.

As founding music director of the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra, COYO, Jahja Ling's unwavering focus on promoting, supporting and creating opportunities for the musically gifted children of our community has uplifted the lives of an untold number of students of classical music, and inspired countless careers in the realm of the performing arts. The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra has evolved into a complete symphonic ensemble that includes 110 young musicians. Members

are selected from more than 45 cities in 14 counties throughout northern Ohio. In 1998, the COYO held the prestigious honor of being one in only five youth orchestras selected to participate in the 2nd National Youth Orchestra Festival sponsored by the American Symphony Orchestra League. In 2001, the education director at Carnegie Hall invited the COYO to perform as part of their Family Concert Series.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and gratitude to Mr. Jahja Ling. Mr. Ling's musical radiance, grace, energy and passion for his art and for the Cleveland community consistently shone through in every performance as conductor with the Cleveland Orchestra. Jahja Ling's vital outreach efforts in founding the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra will forever affect the lives of every young musician, igniting their future dreams, and connecting all of us with the universal power, hope and light of music.

CONGRATULATING DR. LESLIE  
AUERS**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 28, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Leslie Auers of Highland Village, Texas for 15 years of dedication to the healthcare of women in the 26th District of Texas.

Dr. Auers received her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Houston and her medical degree from Texas Tech School of Medicine, where she was in the top 10 percent of her class. She completed her internship and residency at Methodist Medical Center, Dallas in 1987 and 1990, respectively. Dr. Auers served as Chairperson for the Department of Ob/Gyn at Medical Center of Lewisville from 1995 to 1997. Today, she continues to serve the 26th District of Texas with the Obstetrics and Gynecology Associates of Lewisville. Dr. Auers is a member of the Denton County Medical Society, and she is also board certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

As the founder of Obstetrics and Gynecology Associates of Lewisville, former Chief of Staff for Lewisville Medical Center, and former Chief of Obstetrics at Lewisville Medical Center, I commend Dr. Auers on her commitment to helping the citizens of Denton County.

Mr. Speaker we are truly fortunate in my community to have the type of dedicated medical professional that Dr. Leslie Auers personifies, and I wish her every success during the continuance of her career in medicine.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF H.R. 420, LAWSUIT ABUSE  
REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 27, 2005*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 420, the so-